

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature has a tight relationship with psychology because both of them study the human life. Literature is a work that expresses and communicates thoughts, feeling and attitudes toward life and the world (Rees, 1973:13). There is a tight correlation between psychology and literature indirectly as well as functionally. In fact, psychology and literature have the same object that is human being (Endraswara, 2003:97).

Every human being has the meaning of life. This is because every human being has a different understanding of life. But, “Much of what human being do is done in the service of belongingness.” (Baumeister and Leary, 1995:499). Unconsciously, humanity works everyday to find their happiness. Happiness is largely found when a subject is with other beings. Happiness is beyond love and affection, even love and compassion itself is an element of happiness. Happiness is among the things that are prized and perfect.

One of the earliest discussions about belongingness was clarified by Sigmund Freud. He argued that the need of belongingness derives from the need of sex and filial bonds. Whereas, Alfred Adler regards the need of belongingness as a subject seeking a sense of superiority to counter a

personal sense of inferiority. Carl Jung, a former Freudian, also holds the same view with Adler. He explains humanity belongingness as seeking superiority from divine interventions as an example of reaching out to a richer and more fulfilling purpose in life (Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi, 2000:874).

Everyone wants a happy life, but sometimes the problems come. Therefore, every people need for an understanding of the meaning of life itself. Searching for an understanding of the meaning of life someone will be tested with a variety of problems that will make someone discover the meaning of happiness is. Nicholas Sparks manages to make a very interesting novel to be researched.

Nicholas Charles Sparks (born December 31, 1965) is an American novelist, screenwriter and producer. He has published eighteen novels and two non-fiction books. Several of his novels have become international bestsellers such as and eleven of his romantic-drama novels have been adapted to movies with multimillion-dollar box office grosses. (www.nicholassparks.com)

The twelfth novel by Nicholas Sparks is *Dear John*. Sparks has created another popular novel and some of them have received awards and even filmed. Some of the novel by Sparks include: *The Notebook* (October 1996), *Message in a Bottle* (April 1998), *A Walk to Remember* (October 1999), *The Rescue* (September 2000), etc.

The movie “*The Notebook*” which was also adapted from the same novel is successful in getting success. He wants to repeat the success of “*The Notebook*”, in 2006 “*Dear John*” novel is published, the novel finally filmed in 2010. The film was directed by Lasse Hallström. The novel has the ability to convey complex issues. *Dear John* has a storyline that is favored by many people, the love story of a military member is able to suck a lot of attention.

The novel made the readers feel a different view of the military units that exist in the United States. The loyalty of a soldier to his country was showed in this novel. Characters in the novel are usually described in detail, physical, social, behavioral, nature and habits and others. As well as novels by Nicholas Sparks titled *Dear John*. The Novel tells the story of the life of a soldier named John Tyree. John’s father that like to collect the coins has asperger’s syndrome.

People with Asperger Syndrome have a peculiar manner of speaking. This can involve speaking overly loud, in a monotone or with an unusual intonation. It is also common, but not universal. People that had the syndrome have difficulty controlling their emotions. They may laugh or cry easily or at inappropriate times. (www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/asperger-syndrome)

John had some problems in his life, starting when he was left by his mother as a child, up to the time he meet with a beautiful student named

Savannah Lynn Curtis. From the beginning of the meeting, there is a sense that makes them have to each other. So they decided to build a relationship. After meeting with Savannah, John's life feels perfect. Everyday, they spent together with joy.

Relationships that begin from the summer romance turns into eternal love. It makes Savannah was willing to wait for John to finish the job, who promised to return and marry her. But none would have thought the events of 9/11 in New York that changed the world and their love. At the time, as a soldier, John felt that it is his duty to re-enlist. Unfortunately, a long separation makes Savannah fallin love with someone else.

The number of events that occur in the life of John Tyree made his psychology shaken. The first moment was when he had problem with his girlfriend, Savannah suddenly dumped him. When John heard the news about his father who died, John's mind began reeling again. As bad luck always comes to him. Although, there are many problem that he experienced, he realised that will be a time where he will feel happy more that today.

For these reasons, researcher wanted to examine the character of john Tyree when searching for the meaning of "True Happiness" after the various problems he had experienced before. Life is colored by the sweet and bitter events. Researcher believe that person's life is not only surrounded by misfortune, but there will be an unexpected joy after the

many problems encountered. It is followed by individual efforts in finding the true meaning of happiness itself.

Happiness is how you feel, not how you do it. Actually John Tyree proved that happiness is not just when he is feeling. However, when he saw his loved ones happy, automatically he will be happy too. John gave happiness to others and be grateful for what God gave to him.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher is interested to analyze this novel by using Psychological Approach of John Tyree. So the witer contructs the title **THE MEANING OF TRUE HAPPINESS OF JOHN TYREE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARKS “DEAR JOHN” (2006): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the main problem in this research is how John Tyree found the meaning of true happiness through *Dear John* novel.

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain the definition of true happiness according to the *Dear John* novel
2. To describe the problems affecting the psychology of John Tyree in the *Dear John* novel.

3. To describe how John Tyree finds the meaning of true happiness in the *Dear John* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the focus of the study and analyzes the search of the meaning of true happiness of John Tyree in Nicholas Sparks *Dear John* novel (2006) based on Psychological Approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefits

To give a new contribution and information to the larger of knowledge particularly in the literary study in Nicholas Sparks *Dear John*.

2. Practical Benefits

To enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest with literary study in *Dear John* novel by using Psychological Approach.

F. Paper Organization

The research paper of “**The Meaning of True Happiness of John Tyree Reflected In Nicholas Sparks “*Dear John*” (2006): An Individual Psychological Approach**” is divided in five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of: background of the study, , problems statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and

paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It consist of: notion of individual psychological theory, the basic concept of individual psychological, notion of true happiness, and literature review. Chapter III is research method. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological Analysis of Nicholas Sparks novel "*Dear John*". Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.